

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) Method for determining the moisture content of ~~bulk material~~growing substrate comprising:

- determining the volume of a quantity of ~~bulk material~~growing substrate,
- determining the weight of the quantity of ~~bulk material~~growing substrate,
- determining the specific density from the volume and the weight, and
- finally determining the moisture content by comparing the specific density with a table.

2. (Currently amended) Method for preparing ~~bulk material~~growing substrate with a predetermined moisture content comprising:

- determining the volume of a quantity of ~~bulk material~~growing substrate,
- determining the weight of the quantity of ~~bulk material~~growing substrate,
- determining the specific density of the quantity of growing substrate from the volume and weight;
- determining the moisture content of the quantity of growing substrate;
- calculating the additional amount of water necessary to obtain the predetermined moisture content of the quantity of growing substrate, and
- adding water to the quantity of ~~bulk material~~growing substrate until the weight associated with the desired moisture content is obtained.

3. (Currently amended) Method as claimed in claim 2 further comprising, after adding the water, mixing the ~~bulk material~~growing substrate with the water.

4. (Currently amended) Apparatus for determining the moisture content of ~~bulk material~~growing substrate comprising:

- a supply vessel placed on a weighing deviceto obtain a measured weight of the growing substrate;
- a feed device for feeding predetermined volumes of growing substrate to the supply vessel;

-a discharge device ~~for~~ to release the growing substrate from the supply vessel; and
-a computer for determining the moisture content from the predetermined volume
~~supplied volume~~ and the measured weight.

5. (Currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 4 wherein the feed device comprises a conveyor belt which comprises a measuring member for measuring the height of the ~~bulk material~~ growing substrate carried along on the conveyor belt, and that the computer is adapted to determine from the measured height the quantity of material carried along on the conveyor belt.

6. (Previously amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 5 wherein the measuring member comprises a laser source and a laser detector, wherein these elements are adapted to determine the height of the material carried along on the conveyor belt.

7. (Previously amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 5 further comprising a leveling device placed above the conveyor belt upstream of the measuring member for leveling to a uniform height the material carried along on the conveyor belt.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 4 wherein the supply vessel is tiltable.

10. (Currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 4 wherein the apparatus is also suitable for preparing ~~bulk material~~ growing substrate with the desired moisture content in that a water supply device is placed above the supply vessel in order to supply water to the supply vessel.

11. (Previously amended) Apparatus as claimed claim 4 wherein the apparatus is provided with a dispensing device for dispensing additives.

12. (Previously amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 6 further comprising a leveling device placed above the conveyor belt upstream of the measuring member for leveling to a uniform height the material carried along on the conveyor belt.

13. (Previously amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 5 wherein the supply vessel is tiltable.

14. (Previously amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 6 wherein the supply vessel is tiltable.

15. (Previously amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 7 wherein the supply vessel is tiltable.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 7 wherein the apparatus is also suitable for preparing ~~bulk material~~ growing substrate with the desired moisture content in that a water supply device is placed above the supply vessel in order to supply water to the supply vessel.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously amended) Apparatus as claimed claim 6 wherein the apparatus is provided with a dispensing device for dispensing additives.

20. (Previously amended) Apparatus as claimed claim 10 wherein the apparatus is provided with a dispensing device for dispensing additives.